

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 2, 3, 23, 26, and 33-43 have been cancelled, leaving claims 1, 4-22, 24, 25, and 27-32, and newly added claims 44-52 pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby affirms election of the Group I invention, which includes claims 1-32 and newly added claims 44-52. Accordingly, non-elected claims 33-43 have been cancelled, and the title of the invention was amended to be commensurate with the scope of the elected invention.

Claims 3, 23, and 26, which were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but otherwise found to contain allowable subject matter, have been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as respective claims 1, 22, and 44. Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 22, and 44, along with the claims depending therefrom (claims 4-12, 24, 25, 27-32, and 45-52), are allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 13-21.

Based on the foregoing, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (714) 830-0606.

Respectfully submitted,

BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP

Dated: April 19, 2004

By:



Michael J. Bolan

Reg. No. 42,339

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Three Embarcadero Center, 18th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111